

FY 2011 COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE APPROPRIATIONS  
REQUESTED PROJECTS  
HONORABLE SOLOMON P. ORTIZ  
TX-27

(alphabetical order by project name)

Project Name: Big Brothers Big Sisters Mentoring Programs  
Recipient: Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Texas (BBBS)  
1425 Robinhood Drive  
202 Baltimore Avenue  
San Antonio, Texas 78215

\$70,000 is requested in federal funding for this project which engages at-risk youth in educational or recreational activities that support positive decision-making and enhance relationship skills, leading to a higher degree of academic involvement, achievement, and ultimately higher graduation rates. These funds will support our highly effective Mentoring Programs. It will be used to recruit, screen, train, match, evaluate, and support the children in our community in one-to-one mentoring relationships with caring, adult volunteers. The need for a Big Brother or Big Sister mentor in our community is great. Without the supportive presence of a role model who demonstrates an alternative, more positive way of life, the destructive behaviors children are facing today can become a pattern that is passed on from generation to generation. It costs approximately \$1,000 a year to serve a one-to-one mentoring relationship in the BBBS program. In comparison to the nearly \$40,000 a year it costs to keep a child in a juvenile detention facility, an investment in the Big Brothers Big Sisters' proven prevention program is an economically solid choice. Our organization will put federal taxpayer funding back into our community, providing the most at-risk children the support they so desperately need, but so desperately lack. Research proves that adults mentored as children in the BBBS program are better educated, wealthier, and more fulfilled than their peers, suggesting that Big Brothers Big Sisters can break the intergenerational cycles linked to poverty and delinquent behaviors. Our children become successful, contributing, and productive members of society.

Project Name: Coastal and Environmental Studies Education and Outreach Center  
Recipient: University of Texas at Brownsville  
80 Fort Brown  
Brownsville, Texas 78520

\$2,364,680 is requested in federal funds for this project. This project will establish a Center of Excellence in Coastal and Environmental Studies situated on the US/Mexico border in a transition area between tropical and temperate coastal environments. This Center will combine the existing resources and expertise of two South Texas institutions of higher education (UTB and UTPA) into a collaborative, cost-effective initiative to achieve national goals. This center

will promote increasing the participation of under-represented groups in the sciences, addressing coastal hazards, revitalizing degraded marine fishery habitat, and protecting ecotourism resources of economic importance to the regional economy.

This project will have direct economic impacts resulting from enhancing ecotourism, commercial and recreational fisheries, and recreational opportunities will ultimately benefit the entire Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas, including a four-county area (Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr, and Willacy) and over 40 communities.

Cameron County also has the highest coastal vulnerability index in the United States. Research, education, and public outreach is needed to address the future of this delicate, economically important, and socially important bio-geological system in the face of severe weather events, sea-level rise, habitat modification, and climate change. Other outcomes include the direct health benefit from the Bahia Grande Restoration Project for the many local cities. Recent flooding of the wetlands has resulting in a significant reduction in the clouds of salty dust that had blanketed these towns from the formerly dry wastelands of the Bahia Grande.

Project Name: Multi-purpose Convention Center  
Recipient: Brownsville, City of  
P.O. Box 911  
1001 E. Elizabeth Street  
Brownsville, TX. 78522

\$32,500,000 in federal cost share is requested in for this project. The City of Brownsville, Texas proposes to build a Multi Purpose Center to increase the revenue generating potential of the Lower Rio Grande Valley. The facility will draw conferences, conventions, and special events to the City, increase revenues for multiple industries, and generate over 800 jobs.

Project Name: National Marine Sanctuary Program (ORF)  
Recipient: National Marine Sanctuary Foundation  
4700 Avenue U, Building 216  
Galveston, TX 77551

\$60,000,000 in programmatic funding is requested to provide stable and sufficient appropriations for NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) will ensure that it can continue to protect, maintain and restore our nation's underwater treasures through cutting-edge research initiatives, meaningful public education programs, essential community partnerships and sustainable management of activities affecting Sanctuaries. Furthermore, sufficiently investing in National Marine Sanctuaries will continue to produce wide-ranging economic benefits: recreation and tourism centered in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary supported 32,000 jobs and \$2.23 billion in economic activity during the 2007-2008 season alone. ONMS has not received sufficient appropriations for several consecutive budget cycles, prompting the National Marine Sanctuary System to reduce visitor center hours, eliminate research programs and diminish enforcement capacities: clearly, the System needs adequate resources to meet new

challenges while fulfilling its existing mandates. For example, Congress recently appropriated funds for acquisition of the research vessel R/V Manta to enhance management of the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary – an area of vital importance to our nation’s energy security and economy – but that vessel is largely inactive due to a lack of funding for fuel, operations and research.

Project Name: National Marine Sanctuary Program (PAC)  
Recipient: National Marine Sanctuary Foundation  
4700 Avenue U, Building 216  
Galveston, TX 77551

\$20,000,000 in programmatic funding is requested to providing stable and sufficient appropriations for NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) will ensure that it can continue to protect, maintain and restore our nation's underwater treasures through cutting-edge research initiatives, meaningful public education programs, essential community partnerships and sustainable management of activities affecting Sanctuaries. Furthermore, sufficiently investing in National Marine Sanctuaries will continue to produce wide-ranging economic benefits: recreation and tourism centered in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary supported 32,000 jobs and \$2.23 billion in economic activity during the 2007-2008 season alone. ONMS has not received sufficient appropriations for several consecutive budget cycles, prompting the National Marine Sanctuary System to reduce visitor center hours, eliminate research programs and diminish enforcement capacities: clearly, the System needs adequate resources to meet new challenges while fulfilling its existing mandates. For example, Congress recently appropriated funds for acquisition of the research vessel R/V Manta to enhance management of the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary – an area of vital importance to our nation’s energy security and economy – but that vessel is largely inactive due to a lack of funding for fuel, operations and research.

Project Name: Port Aransas Nature Preserve  
Recipient: Port Aransas, City of  
701 W. Avenue A  
Port Aransas, TX 78373

\$3,000,000 is requested in federal funding for this project which will preserve endangered wetlands, protect fish and wildlife, and promote tourism, education and economic development in South Texas. The City began a Nature Preserve project in 2002 by leasing nearly 1000 acres of land from the state of Texas for park and open space. The city has recently completed a master plan for the Preserve and opened Phase 1 which is providing over 2 miles of hike and bike trails within the park and includes a pavilion, boardwalks over algal flats, crushed granite trails on the uplands, covered seating sites and a tower overlooking wetland areas around Salt Island. Phase 2 of the Preserve is currently in the design stage and will add another 1.25 miles to the existing trail system branching off Hwy 361 and providing a link to the Leonabelle Turnbull Birding Center. This project may create approximately 75 jobs. This project will create

approximately 70 jobs and serve the city's 4,000 residents and over 400,000 annual visitors to Port Aransas.

Project Name: Shrimp Industry Fishing Effort Research Continuation  
Recipient: Southern Shrimp Alliance  
Wilma Anderson, SSA Board Member, TSA Pres.  
PO Box 1020  
Aransas Pass, TX 78335

\$1,500,000 is requested in federal funding for this project which will assist the shrimping industry in complying with Federal regulations and statutory requirements to reduce bycatch to the extent practicable and to rebuild overfished stocks including red snapper in Gulf federal waters. This program is essential to the implementation of Federal regulations requiring a 74% reduction in red snapper bycatch in the shrimp fisheries that operate in federally-managed waters in order to comply with. The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council has strongly endorsed this program. This project benefits thousands of low and moderate income owners, captains and crew of the 1200-1600 shrimp vessels fishing in Gulf federal waters.

Project Name: South Padre Island Police Technology Upgrades  
Recipient: South Padre Island, City of  
4501 Padre Boulevard  
South Padre Island, TX 78597

\$329,000 is requested in federal funding for this project which will assist The City of South Padre, a community in close proximity to the Mexican border, in dealing with an influx of illegal immigrants, illegal drug trafficking and human smuggling pose a constant threat to the city. These communication technology upgrades are designed to fight crime by offering new tools to our officers to identify and apprehend criminals, to improve communication, introduce interoperability with other agencies across the State, and to improve officer safety.

While the police department has made progress in fighting the unique crimes that exist in a City near the border, implementing the specific technologies in this request will help our law enforcement officers make a larger impact on lessening crime in the area and potentially the rest of the nation. Unfortunately, the equipment needed to complete the police department's technology upgrades is beyond our reach without additional outside funding.

Project Name: Streets & Drainage Improvements  
Recipient: Ingleside, City of  
2671 San Angelo  
Ingleside TX 78362

\$5,187,000 in federal funding is requested The City intends to rebuild 12,500 linear feet of existing streets (Tiner Avenue, Avenue A, and Fourth Street), which will also have some aspects

of drainage improvement associated with them; replace 1700 linear feet of existing 42" CMP storm sewer along Parkview Drive that has deteriorated and by its failure has caused that adjacent sidewalk and roadway to fail; install 1550 linear feet of box culvert along Avenue B to fill in a deep roadside ditch; and finally to seal coat approximately 110,000 linear feet of existing streets The following is a list of streets (in no particular order) that would be completed as part of a seal coat program (that will extend the service life of each roadway) through this 'project: Amarillo, Arkansas, Atlantic, Avenue A, Avenue B, Avenue C, Avenue D, Avenue E, Avenue F, Avenue G, Avenue H, Avenue I, Avenue J, Avenue K, Beaumont, Bellair, Big Oak, Big Oak, Lane, Breezeway Circle, California, Capeheart, Capeheart Circle, Dallas, Danforth, East Wind, Eighth Street, Filiberto Villa, First Street, Greenbriar, Henrietta, Hewlett, Hultgreen, Humble, Indian Trail, Lovers Lane, McCullough, Mustang, Parkview, Poinsetta, Rebecca, San Angelo, San Antonio, Second Street, Secoy, Sharon, Sixth Street, Sunset, Susan Circle, Texas, Third, Street, Waco, West Main

Project Name: Texas A&M Adjudicated Youth  
Recipient: Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi  
6300 Ocean Drive  
Corpus Christi, TX 78412

\$270,000 in federal funding cost share is requested for the STARS program. STARS is designed to decrease delinquency, violence, drug use, teen pregnancy and school dropout, in court-referred and at-risk teens and their families living within the barrio of Corpus Christi, Texas. The program utilizes doctoral and masters counseling students to employ a “therapeutic” approach to help both at-risk students and their families combat these problems.

The services offered by the STARS program are much needed in this community. Nueces County leads the twelve surrounding South Texas counties in the number of juvenile arrests. Alcohol, tobacco, and other drug abuse by children age 10 to 17 is a problem of enormous proportion and impact on the citizens of Nueces County. One in three young people in Nueces County lives in poverty. This is a significant stress factor for families often leading to child abuse. In addition, Nueces County ranks the highest among the eleven most populated counties in Texas in teenage pregnancy.

STARS works with youth most in need of intervention through local justices, who refer adjudicated youth to the programs offered through STARS. To date, over 1000 households from 18 different zip codes in the Corpus Christi area have participated in programming. Three quarter of the juvenile participants have not committed repeat offenses after entering STARS. All have returned to school. Those who reoffend are referred back to the center for intensified individual/family counseling to seek additional methods that will help deter problematic behaviors.

Project Name: Texas Height Modernization  
Recipient: Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi  
6300 Ocean Drive

## Corpus Christi, TX 78412

\$1,000,000 is requested in federal funds for this project. Coastal areas along the Gulf of Mexico in Louisiana and Texas are experiencing severe coastal erosion due to the combined effects of land subsidence and sea level rise. The former U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey established the National Spatial Reference System, on which all mapping and infrastructure construction is based, from the 1920s to early 1960s with maintenance ceasing in the early 1970s. Many of these spatial marks have disappeared due to development or been rendered useless by the combined effects of land subsidence and sea level rise. The magnitude of sea-level rise has been measured at Galveston to be 2.16 feet per 100 years (source: National Ocean Service). Not knowing accurate elevations of our coastal infrastructure became clear during September 2008 when Hurricane Ike caused coastal flooding resulting in destruction of many thousands of homes and businesses in Houston and Galveston. Coastal communities are simply not prepared! Knowing the extent of the vertical change that has occurred since the markers were established, some up to seventy years ago, will restore our understanding of the risk coastal communities face. The same scenario applies to every county in the Nation as the vertical bench marks are destroyed over time. An intensive GPS elevation project needs to be put in place for all counties of Texas and the Nation, which is the goal of grossly underfunded National Height Modernization program at NOAA. Current development projects in Texas are relying on spatial reference marks that are neither in their original published positions nor at their published elevation above sea level. Current surveying professionals rely on the Continuously Operating Reference System (CORS) of GPS stations that have not been precisely leveled to the North American Vertical Datum of 1988 (NGVD 88). This project will tie all national CORS stations in Texas to accurate NGVD 88 elevations. Texas remains vulnerable to storms, like Ike, because coastal elevations remain unknown due to the long-term effects of subsidence and sea-level rise. The restoration of accurate vertical control to identify low-lying areas is critical for evacuation and preparedness for hurricane storm surge and inland river flooding.

Project Name: UTMSI-Center for Biological Indicators of Change in Coastal Ecosystem Health  
Recipient: University of Texas  
P.O. Box 7397  
Austin, TX 78713

\$2,500,000 is requested in federal funds for this project. This project will create a unique Center to develop and evaluate novel biological indicators of coastal ecosystem health to be used in comprehensive assessments of change in coastal ecosystems that result from natural processes (e.g., climate change) and human activity (e.g., coastal development). Research produced by this new Center will provide critical information of the health of the local coastal ecosystems, upon which the economies of all coastal communities depend. The Center will develop tools that will identify environmental hazards that can affect human health, thereby allowing regulatory agencies and local communities to respond before their economies are impacted. This project will also create approximately 30 new jobs, from highly technical research positions to support staff. Research funds attracted by the Center, estimated to be \$1-2 million per year, will be spent largely in the local area, contributing to local economies.

Project Name: Wastewater Line, Lift Station, and Manhole Improvement Project  
Recipient: Ingleside, City of  
2671 San Angelo  
Ingleside TX 78362

The City of Ingleside is requesting \$1,004,000. in federal funding for proposed improvements to the Taft Lift Station and the rehabilitation/replacement of wastewater collection lines and manholes. The projects are necessitated by Texas Commission on Environmental Quality standards. The system is an aging one with out dated and non-optimal clay pipes. The City will attempt to reduce the inflow/infiltration seen during rain events that dramatically increases the overall system flow by replacing sections of the clay pipe. The City also seeks to improve efficiency with the rehabilitation of 48 existing brick manholes through the installation of fiberglass liners. These improvements will help address capacity and compliance issues, and help the City better serve its residents and businesses.

Project Name: Water Line Improvements  
Recipient: Ingleside, City of  
2671 San Angelo  
Ingleside TX 78362

The City of Ingleside is requesting \$500,000 in federal funding for this project. The City of Ingleside has seen its water infrastructure age and deteriorate over the past several years, and during this period has had to address numerous leaks in some sections of town. Ingleside is now seeking to address these issues and begin to replace existing sections of Asbestos Cement and Steel Water Lines with PVC; in addition to replacing unusable fire hydrants and gate valves. These improvements will help address issues with poor water quality, fire protection, and pressure in the system. Another phase of the project will be to purchase a back-up generator for one of the city's water booster stations.

Project Name: YW Teen Program Expansion  
Recipient: YWCA of Corpus Christi  
460 I Corona Drive  
Corpus Christi, TX 78411

\$400,000 in federal cost share is requested in for this project. The YWCA of Corpus Christi has successfully operated their YW Teen Program since 1950. Currently, the YW Teen Program serves over 1,400 fifth and sixth grade, at-risk girls enrolled in Title I schools throughout District 27 each week and approximately 2,800 individuals each year. However, surrounding school districts continuously request the YW Teen Program because of our high success rate. The YWCA Corpus Christi aggressively seeks funding to support the current size and scope of this project. Additional assistance is needed to increase the program's capacity and the community's access to services, so that we impact more young girls in the Coastal Bend area. The YWCA

recognizes the need to expand to surrounding counties within District 27 and District 15 in order to prevent a greater number of at-risk girls from making unfortunate decisions with heavy, life-long consequences. Without such services, other related social problems such as substance abuse, prostitution, teenage pregnancy and juvenile crime will increase. The YWCA Corpus Cilristi is requesting funding in order to effectively expand the YW Teen program while maintaining optimal staffing levels and comprehensive prevention programming to a larger number of at-risk girls in our region.